THE IRON TRADE.—The feeling manifested at the preliminary quarterly meeting at Dudley on Thursday in last week was still despondent. Iron had been sold at as much as 20s. a-ton, below the "understood price;" but it is alleged that the low-price masters have resolved "not to persist further in so ruinous a competition." The propriety of attempting a general reduction of make was canvassed, and the *Birmingham Gazette* thinks it probable that some understanding will be arranged with the Welsh, Scotch, and other districts for that purpose, unless the position of the trade should shortly be sufficiently improved to prevent the necessity for such an effort.——The *Glasgow Herald* announces the discovery of a practical mode of chemically purifying iron, that when turned out in a malleable state, chain-links made of it will sustain a weight as much greater than that sustainable by the best of the ordinary manufacture, as 10 is to 7½.——In his lecture on iron, at the Geological Museum, Mr. Percy remarked, that as to cast or pig iron, though in Europe it is a modern and British invention, the Chinese had, in this matter, long anticipated us. Cast-iron had been used by this people immemorially, and not as baubles or playthings, as they used the compass and gunpowder, but for economic every-day use. Their culinary utensils were made of it, as well as the vats and pans of their manufacturing processes. They not only largely use, but largely export these utensils, and have even transferred the manufacture to the neighbouring countries, from which they are again exported. Iron, the lecturer also remarked, was known to the Jews, but steel as well as iron to the ancient Greeks and Romans, as indeed in all known ages they seem also to have been, among the nations of the far East, such as the Hindus, the Chinese, the Japanese, the Birmans, the Siamese, and even the Malays.

NADAUD, THE STONEMASON.—Our readers may recollect of an anecdote in our pages as to how Nadaud, the Parisian stonemason, having, by the thrift of his worthy wife much more than by his own nevertheless persevering and industrious habits, scraped together a little fortune, shared it to the uttermost sous with a host of fellow-workmen at Paris, who were thrown out of work at the Revolution of 1848; and how M. Nadaud was, in consequence of this act of generosity, lifted into a comfortable seat in the National Assembly, where he enjoyed the honours and emoluments of a French M.P. till Louis Napoleon put an end to all their differences by dispersing them on the eventful 2nd of December. Poor Nadaud, it seems, stepped quietly across the Channel, came up to London, and is now here hard at work as ever he was with chisel and mallet. A *striking* instance of the vicissitudes of French existence.

IRON-MASTERS' PROFITS.—Lady Charlotte Guest piques herself more on being the wife of the great ironmaster than the daughter of the Scotch Earl. Though she may possibly startle at the question, "what is the price of pigs?" she knows what the price should be. Upon one occasion, I am told, she astonished the wild Cymbri by rolling out a rail bar herself. A circumstance was narrated to me which, if true, indicates her character aptly enough. It was, if I mistake not, the great railway year. She had a grand party at her London residence, probably brought together to give *éclat* to the project. When the festivity was at its height, a courier arrived from Dowlais, booted and spurred, with a tin box. Lady Charlotte ordered it to be brought to her in the brilliantly lighted saloon. "What's that, Lady Charlotte?" exclaimed they all. "'Tis our balance-sheet," answered her ladyship. "Balance-sheet!" exclaimed the fair Aristoi, "What's a balance-sheet?" "It is an account made up, and showing the profits down at the works, for the last twelve months." The company laughed, for they thought, with Lady Lindsay, of the *cinder-hole*. Lady Charlotte not seeming to heed them, said, as though she spoke to herself, "Three hundred thousand pounds—a very fair year," and re-committed the balance-sheet to its tin case, while peeresses looked as Lot's wife might have looked as she was being changed into salt. "Three hundred thousand pounds profit? What!—you don't mean that in one year?"—"In one year," was the reply, as if there was nothing at all remarkable in the matter. "I'd be a Cinderella myself (said a border countess) to a husband with such a business: it beats the glass slipper!" Lady Charlotte had her revenge. None of them sneered at the cinder-hole after that.—*Abridged from Roebuck's History of the Whigs.*

CHURCH BELLS.—You have of late been so kind as to give your readers a few "touches" on church bells. Will you object, for the information of those who are interested in this subject, to invite either opinions or authoritative statements respecting the time at which the present mode of hanging bells and swinging them by means of "the wheel" and other parts of "the cage" were first introduced? The question is probably connected with the invention of "peal ringing," and, therefore, the answer to it may more exactly determine than is generally known *when* that art was discovered. I beg, too, to call attention to a woodcut and description of "Wix Belfry," which will be found in "the Eastern Counties Railway Illustrated Guide;" and if any more distinct account can be given of this ancient and remarkable structure, I shall be very glad to have it. May I take the liberty of adding that as I am endeavouring to compile what shall be a work of some authority and interest on bells, any stray anecdotes or information about them will be most acceptable to me.—ALFRED GATTY, Ecclesfield Vicarage, near Sheffield.

PERPETUAL MOTION.—After years of "mathematical labour and mathematical results," says an American paper, "Professor Willis, of Rochester, U.S. has completed, and has now in constant operation, a self-winding clock, which determines the seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, and years of time, with unfailing accuracy, continuing in constant motion by itself, never requiring to be wound up, never running down, but moving perpetually so long as its components exist."

BUILDERS' CALCULATIONS.—Sir,—Do, pray, insert the following diversified tenders for three second-rate warehouses, and one second-rate dwelling-house, in Cannon-street, City, Mr. Hague, architect. The quantities supplied.—CHIP.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Holland | £9,747 | 0 | 0 |
| Gammon | 9,559 | 0 | 0 |
| H. Burton | 9,333 | 0 | 0 |
| Cubitt | 9,216 | 0 | 0 |
| Curtis | 9,182 | 0 | 0 |
| Haynes | 8,988 | 0 | 0 |
| Jay | 7,945 | 0 | 0 |
| Myers | 7,876 | 0 | 0 |

## TENDERS

For new rectory and tower to St. Martin's Ongar, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street. Mr. J. Davies, architect.

| | |
|---|---|
| Greenwood | £2,760 |
| Cubitt | 2,744 |
| Brass and Son | 2,695 |
| Haynes and Co. | 2,597 |
| Piper | 2,523 |
| Matthews | 2,457 |
| Ashby and Sons | 2,452 |
| Curtis | 2,299 |

For a house at Lewisham, under Messrs. Smith and Son, of Greenwich.

| | |
|---|---|
| Howard | £2,194 |
| Hall | 2,186 |
| Willson | 2,139 |
| Paul | 1,864 |
| Taylor | 1,765 |

Delivered March 6 for building new Independent Chapel at Richmond. Mr. Jos. James, architect. Quantities taken out by Mr. S. B. Wilson.

| | Chapel. | Lecture Room. | Kentish rag in lieu of brick facings. | Bargate stone in lieu of brick facings. | Allowance for old building. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barnes | £5,100 | £780 | £195 | £164 | £100 | £6,690 |
| Cooper, H. W. | 4,187 | 722 | 240 | 260 | 250 | 4,659 |
| Harmer | 4,080 | 650 | 390 | 297 | 72 | 4,658 |
| Patrick | 3,677 | 615 | 315 | 385 | 155 | 4,487 |
| Cooper, Jos. | 3,440 | 740 | 120 | 180 | 200 | 4,380 |
| Hurst & Co. | 3,484 | 656 | 76 | 121 | 123 | 4,377 |
| Dowell & Co. | 3,429 | 598 | 168 | 179 | 140 | 4,397 |
| Dove | 3,180 | 650 | 127 | 180 | 75 | 4,256 |
| Piper | 3,758 | 894 | 140 | 98 | 206 | 4,236 |
| Jay | 3,268 | 549 | 150 | 180 | 120 | 3,811 |
| Myers | 3,100 | 519 | 30 | 60 | 50 | 3,659 |

For eight houses and gateway for the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, at Deans-yard. Mr. Scott, architect. Quantities taken out by Messrs. Hunt and Stephenson and Mr. C. Balam.

| | |
|---|---|
| Grimsdell | £31,165 |
| Piper | 30,244 |
| Lucas | 30,244 |
| Candy | 29,972 |
| Locke and Nesham | 28,863 |
| Holland | 28,560 |
| Kelk | 27,807 |
| Jay | 27,166 |
| Myers | 24,916 |

For mill and stores at Dartford, Kent, for Messrs. Thompson and Co. Quantities taken out by Mr. Meakin and Mr. Belcher.

| | Mill. | Store. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Piper | £3,579 | £1,678 | £5,257 |
| Carter | 3,500 | 1,700 | 5,200 |
| Jay | 3,336 | 1,662 | 4,997 |
| Lawrence | 3,422 | 1,580 | 4,982 |
| Wilson | 3,339 | 1,552 | 4,891 |
| Brown | 3,220 | 1,527 | 4,747 |

For new gas tank at Fulham, for the Imperial Gas Company.

| | |
|---|---|
| Kelk | £9,600 |
| Cubitt | 7,980 |
| Hoof | 7,297 |
| Jay | 7,143 |
| Piper | 6,966 |
| Myers | 6,740 |

[Under what heading some of these should come, we leave readers to determine.]

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"J. P.," "M. D. W.," "S. C. Jun." (thanks), "J. F.," "W. A. P." "J. W." (we cannot refer), "E. L. S." "G. B. M.," "J. B." Horsleydown (under our mark), "W. C." (ditto), "J. J. L.," "H. P." (power of the Local Board of Health may be seen in the local Act), "J. B. B.," "J. L.," "T. P.," "E. S.," "W. N.," "T. B. L.," "A Labourer," "E. A.," "J. B." Westminster, "G. S.," "Col. P.," "J. B." Notts, "E. B.," "E. L.," "T. T." "A Friend of Architecture," "W. G. H." (it is out of our power to send opinions on such subjects), "F. and W." (thanks), "C. J. S."

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